

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 946
By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Judge John Kaye Byers.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John Kaye Byers; and

WHEREAS, Judge Byers was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, after astute service in the United States Air Force from 1950 until 1954, John Byers studied at East Tennessee State University, Memphis State University, the University of Maryland, and the University of Tennessee. Earning his law degree from the University of Tennessee's College of Law in 1959, Judge Byers began practicing law in Sullivan County, and was that county's attorney from 1966-67; and

WHEREAS, Judge Byers was elected as Criminal Court Judge for Sullivan County in 1967, and proudly served in that capacity until he was appointed by the Governor in 1976 to serve as a judge on the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals; during the sixteen years until his retirement, the last two of which he served as presiding judge, Judge John Byers established a standard of judicial excellence for this State; and

WHEREAS, during his professional career, Judge Byers served on numerous boards and committees, including the Tennessee Judicial Council and the Tennessee Sentencing Commission, was a member of the Kingsport Bar Association, which he served as President and under whose guidance was awarded the Outstanding Bar Association Award by the American Bar Association, and was a judge advocate for the American Legion in 1963-64. An avid golfer who good humor on the links will be sorely missed, Judge Byers was a upstanding member of the Green Meadow Country Club in Blount County ; and

WHEREAS, John Byers was an active and devout member of the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Judge Byers enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Zenda Chase Byers, and was the proud father of Vickie and Duane Bellamy, Will and Trish Byers, Zenda Kay and Pepper Littreal, and Lisa Ward. He will be greatly missed by his adoring grandchildren, Felicia Dair Bellamy, Britney Bellamy, Erin Byers, Kendall Kaye Parrott, Rosemary Byers, and Kory "Beau" Littreal; his brother, Wayne C. Byers; his sister, Carol Barling; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Judge John Byers leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John Kaye Byers, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Judge Byers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.